5.

L'ESTRANGE NO PAPIST:

In *ANSWER* to a LIBEL ENTITULED L'Estrange a *PAPIST*, &c.

IN A LETTER TO A FRIEND.

With *Notes* and *Animadversions* upon *Miles PRANCE*, Silver-smith, *Cum multis Aliis.*

By Roger L'Estrange.

LONDON,
Printed By *T. B.* for *H. Brome* at the Sign of the *Gun* in St. *Pauls* Church-Yard 1681.

UMI

L'ESTRANGE NO PAPIST.

In a Letter to a *FRIEND*, &c.

SIR,

SO far am I from being troubled at the *Box* of *Libells* you ſent me, that you could hardly have made me a *Preſent* more to my *Honour* and *Satisfaction*; for what greater *Honour* to a Man that has any Senſe, either of *Vertue* or common *Honeſty*, than to be made the *Mark* of the *common Enemies of God*, and of all *good Men*? The *common enemies* of the *King* and of the *Church*? and in one word, the *Enemies* of *Religion*, *Truth*, *Good-Manners*, *Order* and *Government*; the *Vomit*, in ſhort, of all the *Jayls* about the *Town*, and the very *ſcandal* of *Reaſonable Nature*: This is the juſt *Character* and the *Quality* of theſe *People*, according to the very *Letter*.

But where's the *ſatisfaction* (you'll ſay) of ſeeing *Men* turn'd into *Beaſts*; the *Spirit* of *Blaſphemy* enduing *Human Shapes*, and managing the *Cauſe* of *Hell* in the *Name* of the *Almighty*, and in the ſtile of the *Goſpel*? of ſeeing (I ſay) the Spirit of *Contumacy*, *Violence*, and *Slander*, not only flying in the Face of *Gods Anointed*, and inſulting over *Apoſtolical Inſtitutions* with *ſcorn* and *triumph*, but animate alſo to thoſe Outrages, by all the *temptations* and *encouragements* of *Popular Applauſe*, *Impunity* and *Reward*.

This is not a Subject (I muſt confeſs) for any one that has either the *Bowels* of a *Man*, or the *Softneſs* and *Charity* of a *Chriſtian*, to take *delight* in: But yet ſince it hath pleaſed God to puniſh a *Stubborn*, *Hypocritical* and *Unthankful Generation*, by leaving them to their own *Luſts* and *Imaginations*, it is a *Comfort* however, and a *Bleſſing* to us, that Providence hath been pleaſed ſo *judicially* to infatuate theſe Inſtruments of *Satan*, in this their *abandon'd ſtate*; that their very *folly* diſappoints the intended effect of their *wickedneſs*, and that the groſsneſs of their *Forgeries* and *Impoſtures*, the *rancour* of their *malice*, and the notorious *lewdneſs* of their *practices* are ſufficient to ſink what Veſſel ſoever they Embarque in, and to deſtroy the *cauſe* they would *ſupport*.

There are ſome things (you ſay) that you would have me take notice of; as *Prance*'s Book of *Depoſitions*, to prove me a *Papiſt*, and the Vulgar Clamour againſt me to ſecond that imputation. *If he were not guilty*, they cry, *why did he fly*? But you are yet of Opinion ſtill that not one Man of a *thouſand*, that calls me a *Papiſt*, *believes* me one.

As to the *foam* of the *Rabble*, (as you call it) your advice is, that I ſhould wholly remit theſe *Outrages* to the hand of *Juſtice*, being of ſuch a *quality* that the *Government* is much more concern'd in them, than my ſelf in *particular*; for where's the *Dignity* of the *Law*, (as you ſay truly) or the *ſecurity* of the *State*, if every obſcure, foul-mouth'd *Libeller* ſhall be at liberty to arraign *Authority gratis*, and to make what *Rogues*, *Whores* and *Traitors* they pleaſe? As this is their daily practice, and there goes no more to the doing of it, than *to write a Hiſtory of their own Lives*, *and put other Peoples Names to't*.

You are much in the right, Sir, that ſomething ought to be ſaid to *Prance* and his *Depoſitions*, and I am likewiſe for taking ſome ſort of notice of the *Other Pamphleteers*; and 'tis but a ſheet or two caſt away in *ſurpluſage*, to do *both* under *one*: But a word now to that wretched Objection, *If he were not Guilty*, *why did he fly*?

In the firſt place, *What was I to be guilty of*, *when there was no crime in view*? For if I had been at *Maſs*, and a profeſs'd *Papiſt*, at the time Sworn againſt me, I have yet purg'd my ſelf ſince that time, to the ſatisfaction of the *Law*. Nay more, I was ſolemnly acquitted of the Crime charg'd upon me, before the *King* and *Council*: So that my *retiring* could not in any ſort, be properly ſaid to be a *flight*. For firſt, I had *undergone* the ordinary Methods

of

of *scrutiny* and *justice* in standing *two express* and *Publick Trials*, where, upon the *Complaint* and *Information* of Mr. *Oates*, I was strictly *Examin'd*, and the matter *sifted*, and not one syllable of the *charge made good* against me. 2*dly*, I declar'd my self in *Print* before-hand, in the very close of my *Appeal*, *That I was resolved to withdraw*. 3*dly*, I had left my House, before any mention was made of my name to the *Lords*: and being in a state of *Liberty*, no *accusation depending* against me, and in a place where I had neither Quiet nor Business what could I do better than to betake my self to a *retreat*? Or *why should that freedom which is allowed to all but Slaves, be deny'd to me*? I was e'en weary of being told every hour of the day how many *Traytors*, *Conspirators*, *Rogues*, *Rascals* and *Papists* I was called in the *Coffee-Houses* by a Pack of *New-fashion'd Christians*: Nay, they were *cutting me up* already, and every Man carving out his pleasure upon me, according as his humour lay, either to a *Pillory* or a *Gallows*. But when they had pelted themselves out of breath, I was told indeed that if I could make a friend at *Richard's Coffee-House*, I might yet compound the matter for a *decent correction* at the *Carts-Arse*. There's an old friend of mine, I must confess, that was very bitter upon't; he lives within a Door of his Journeys-end. *Nay*, says he, *rather than* L'Estrange *shall want one to Hang him*, *I' L L be the H A N G-M A N my self*, a thing truly not very unlikely; for *when the Old Hang-man marches off*, *a pardon'd Malefactor has a kind of Equity to succeed in reversion*.

Well Sir, (in short) I withdrew my self, and not without some hope that I might have gain'd the liberty of turning my thoughts some other way in that recess: and, I do assure you, upon the word of an *honest man*, that I have not either directly or indirectly committed any thing to the *Press*, since the Publishing of my *Appeal*; My *Letter to Dr.* Ken *singly excepted*, which I shall here make use of upon this occasion: But my *Silence*, I perceive, as well as my *retreat*, is made an argument of my *guilt*: and presently, Out-comes the incomparable Device of the *Dog Touzer*, a *Whelp* of the *Joyner's Litter* and *Religion*, and then hollows, a *Hue and Cry* after *R. L. S.* with a Copy of Verses upon *Crack-fart* at the end on't: This they say was the Workmanship of *Pugg*; and the Beastly Knave turns up his Stomach so foul upon it, as if Nature had forgot her self at the making of him, and set on his Tayl at the wrong end, this I speak but by hear-say; for by the *hobling* of the Verse, I should rather take it to be the *Thred-Merchants-Brother*, be it spoken to the

Credit of the next worſt Poet upon the Face of the Earth. To ſay nothing of a thouſand Flurts by the By; The whole *Kennel* of *Libellers* is now let looſe upon me, as if I were to be baited to death by *Pole-Cats*. My condition makes me think of a Couple of Gentlemen at *Billingsgate*, that were ſet upon by *Porters*, *Kennel-Rakers*, and *Fiſh-Wives*, with *five hundred Sons of Whores*, and *Bitches*, and other Elegancies of the ſame ſtamp. *One* of them ſtood two or three Volleys of *Curſes* and Rotten *Oranges*, and ſo march'd off, and got clear of the Squable; but the *Other* was ſuch a fool, as to ſtand chopping of Logick with the Brutes, till he was all *dirty* and *ridiculous*, and came off at laſt with his labour for his pains. Juſt ſuch a ſort of Cattle have I now to deal withall. You have given me ſome hints, 'tis true, of *two* of the principal *Ring-leaders* in this worthy *Adventure*.

The *One* of them you ſay is a kind of a *Pagan Poetaſter*. His very *Date* is from *Parnaſſus*; and he fetches his concluſions againſt *Arbitrary-Power*, *Popery* and *Biſhops*, all out of *Ovid*'s *Metamorphoſis*: a mighty Dealer in *Mythology*, and all his *Politiques* (forſooth) are wrapt up in *Myſtery* and *Emblem*; But *there is a report that his father ſaid his laſt prayer under the Gallows*; and he looks upon it perhaps as a part of his *filial duty* to be *Reveng'd* upon the *Government*.

This Deſcription, Sir, ſorts a good deal with the humour of a ſtiff, creaking fellow, That I remember about the Town, a great affecter (if you know him) of the *Italian Shrug*. But it does not hold thorough; who was it, I wonder, that wrote the Copy there that carries the Title of *ſome paſſages preceding the Giants War*; where the Author brings in *Jupiter*, *depoſing Saturn*, with a very quaint *Prediction* and *Encouragement* couch'd under the malice of a *Diabolical Alluſion*. The *Application* of this *Fable*, does undeniably appear, from the enterweaving of divers hints and circumſtances that will not bear any other meaning. After the Expulſion of *Saturn*, he devolves the *Succeſſion* upon *Jupiter*, and then Repreſents *Titan*, in the Head of his *Gigantick Monſters*, in a *Conſpiracy* againſt His *New God*. The Story of his *Titan*, and *Jupiter* Expounds it ſelf; and it is no leſs evident, that he laſhes at the King's *Loyal Miniſters*, *Friends* and *Subjects*, in his Fable of the *Giants*. But whether this be the man, all this while, that you intend, or not, is the queſtion.

The Account you give me of the other, is ſo *ſluttiſh*, that a man

man can hardly name him, and keep his breath ſweet, without waſhing his mouth after't. You tell me he is a common *proſtitute Scribler* to all the *places*, and *perſons* of *Infamy* about the *City*. That the *ſink of the whole Town* emptyes it ſelf into *his ſtudy*, where he does not *write*, but *vomit*; and when the ſheet is full, he throws it out at the window upon the heads of honeſter men than himſelf.

There is but *one Animal* in *Nature*, that can anſwer this Deſcription; and truly, I look upon him but as an *Inſect*, *bred* out of *putrefaction*, and *bedded* in't: His very *nouriſhment*, is *corruption*, and ſuch as he *draws* it in, he *breaths* it out again, inſomuch, that he does in effect lead the life of a *Maggot*, that lies *ſucking* and *ſpewing* in an *Ulcer*.

But alas, it is in a great meaſure the barking of their *Stomachs* that makes them ſtrain their *Throats* at this rate; eſpecially the two fellows that you ſeem to point at; for they are fain to *rail*, to *eat*; and at this inſtant upon a direct competition, which of the two ſhall have the honour to be *à Secretis* to the *Rabble*, upon the next *Rebellion*; in which caſe they chuſe their *men* as they do their *dogs*, for the *blackneſs* of their *mouths*.

Now if there were no more in the caſe, than the ſupporting of my Reputation againſt this Skum of the People; I ſhould not reckon them worth a ſingle thought, unleſs in acknowledgment of the glory I account it, to receive ſome of thoſe envenom'd Arrows upon my *own perſon* that were Levell'd at the *Government*. But ſince Mr. *Prance* has been pleaſed to bring me now a *third time* upon the ſtage for my *Religion*, and in a *Pompous-Title-Page*, to proclaim *L'Eſtrange* a *Papiſt*, and to Paſs a *Formal Act* of *Authority* for the publiſhing of it; I ſhall make bold to averre my ſelf to *Papiſt*; *and after his great example*, to give the like be Authority for the publiſhing of my Vindication.

Feb. 8. 1681

I *do appoint* Richard Baldwin, *and no other perſon, to print theſe* Depoſitions *and* Animadverſions *upon* Roger L' Eſtrange, Eſq;

Miles Prance.

Feb

Feb. 21. 1681.

I *do appoint* Henry Brome, *and no other perſon, to print theſe* Notes *and* Animadverſions *upon* Miles Prance, Silverſmith; cum multis aliis.

Roger L' Eſtrange.

Before I enter upon my *Vindication*, Let me deſire you to take notice, That I wrote at leaſt *ten Letters* to procure a True Copy of what was ſworn againſt me, and could not obtain it; And yet I find, that Mr. *Prance* his intereſt has now expos'd them to the world. I do deſire, that if you approve of theſe Papers, you will forthwith cauſe them to be printed; or otherwiſe, return them to me, and I'le ſee the doing of it my ſelf: And now I proceed.

Animad-

Animadverſions

UPON THE

ANIMADVERTER.

I *Do Appoint* (ſays Mr. *Prance*) Richard Baldwin, *and no other perſon to Print theſe* Depoſitions, *&c.* I would fain know now, by what Law Mr. *Prance* Entitules himſelf to the *ſole privilege* of *Printing*, or *appointing to be printed other Mens Copies*: which is the caſe of *four* of the *five Depoſitions*, that he inſiſts upon.

He ſays in his *Title-Page*, *That* L'Eſtrange *is* prov'd *to be a* Papiſt *by ſuch and ſuch* Depoſitions, *and that he hath Publiſhed the ſaid* Depoſitions, *with* Animadverſions *upon them*, *In* Anſwer *to* L'Eſtrange's *late* Pamphlets, *for the ſatisfaction of all* True Proteſtants, *and to Vindicate the* King's Evidence *in General*, *from his* Aſperſions, *as well as the* Author *in Particular*.

We ſhall take the freedom to examine every point in its proper place; the *Depoſitions*, the *Animadverſions*, the *ſatisfactorineſs* of his *Anſwer* to *L'Eſtrange's Pamphlets*, and the *validity* of his *Vindications*. But he ſhould have done well, before he proceeded to the *Vindication* of the *reſt* of the *Kings Witneſſes*, to have made ſure of a *Vindication for himſelf*, for *two manifeſt* and *deliberate falſities* in the very *Front* of his Book: For *firſt*, he affirms *L'Eſtrange* to be a *Papiſt*, which he is not. And *Secondly*, that he is *prov'd* to be one by the *Depoſitions* therein *mentioned*, when yet the *Depoſitions themſelves* do not ſo much as *pretend* to *prove* any ſuch thing.

But this will better appear from the *Depoſitions* themſelves, which I ſhall here ſet down in the ſame order as he hath Printed them, and then ſpeak to the whole matter in courſe, according to the Method which Mr. *Prance*'s *Author* hath been pleaſed to make uſe of in his *Animadverſions.*

The Information of Miles Prance, *taken upon Oath the 25th. of* Octob. 1680, *&c.*

'THis *Deponent* ſaith, That about three years *ſince* he ſaw Mr. '*Roger L' Eſtrange* three or four times kneeling at *Maſs* in 'the Queens Chappel. *Fol.* 1.

Miles Prance.

2. *The Information of* Lawrence Mowbray *taken upon Oath,* Octob. 25. 1680. *&c.*

'THis *Deponent* ſaith, That about the firſt or ſecond *Sunday* 'in *June* 1677. an Acquaintance of one *Anderſon* (which '*Anderſon* was Servant to Mr. *Allabon* in *Grays-Inn*) being 'with him in the *Queens-Chappel*, ſaluted, immediately after *Maſs* 'a perſon, whom he told this *Deponent*, was Mr. *L' Eſtrange*, who 'Licenſed Books. This *Deponent* ſaith, That he hath once ſince 'ſeen the ſaid Mr. *L' Eſtrange* at Maſs in the Queens-Chappel, and 'ſaw him to be the ſame man he formerly ſaw there. *Fol.* 3.

Lawrence Mowbray.

3. *The Examination of* Jane Curtis, Octo. 27. 1680, *&c.*

'THis *Examiant* ſaith, That about the middle, or to-'ward the latter end of the Month of *June* laſt, Mr. *L'E-'ſtrange* came to her Houſe, (her Husband being out of 'Town,) and there accuſed her and her Husband, for Printing and 'Publiſhing divers Books, which he ſaid, were very dangerous a-'gainſt the Government, naming ſeveral Pamphlets which ſhe 'knew nothing of; and though ſhe *TRULY* did *deny her ſelf* '*concern'd in any ſuch thing*, yet he perſiſted that he would *prove* it, 'and proceeded to *threaten* that it lay in his power to ruine her and her

'her Husband; and then told her of his great intereſt at Court, 'and that if ſhe would tell him who ſet her on to Publiſh ſuch 'Books, he would take her off from all Trouble, and promiſed to 'do great things for her Husband. But ſhe *denying that ſhe was 'ever concerned in ſuch practices*, or had ever been urg'd or inſtiga-'ted thereunto by any, he ſaid, *that was falſe*, and that ſhe had 'been influenc'd and ſtay'd up by Ill men, and that he believed it 'was *Oates* and his *Gang*; and (ſaid he) you know what ſome of 'them (ſpeaking of *Oates* and thoſe he call'd his *Gang*) are come 'to already, and I do not queſtion but *I* ſhall ſee them all *Hang'd* 'e'er long. And he refuſed to Licence ſeveral Books, wherein 'there was any thing againſt the *Papiſts*: more particularly, thoſe 'two Books ſhe ſhewed Your Lordſhips, which he Swore by His 'Maker, he would not Licenſe for Five Hundred pounds, which 'Books, upon the firſt ſight were Licenſed by the Lord Biſhop of '*London*.

4. *The Information of* Joſeph Bennet *Oct.* 30. 1680.

'WHo ſaith, That he did become Bail, and enter'd into 'Bond, before one of the Clerks of the Conncil, for 'one Capt. *Ely*, That he ſhould appear the firſt day of this Term at 'the *Kings Bench Bar*, which ſaid Capt. *Ely* was then a Stranger to 'him; but *Roger L' Eſtrange* Eſq; (One of His Majeſties Juſtices 'of the Peace) being at Mr. *Hinton*'s the Apothecary, near this 'Informants Houſe, ſent for this Enformant, and then told him, 'Captain *Ely* was a friend of his, and an honeſt man, and therefore 'he, the ſaid Juſtice, did requeſt this Enformant to become Bail 'for the ſaid Capt. *Ely*, and the ſaid *L' Eſtrange* did then promiſe 'this Enformant to give him Security to ſave him harmleſs, and 'pretended he would then have done it, had he not been in great 'haſte. And the ſaid Mr. *L'Eſtrange* did tell this Enformant, he 'had ſent for another perſon to Bail the ſaid Captain *Ely*, but he 'not being to be found, he therefore ſent for this Enformant, and 'ſaid he would take it as a great kindneſs from this Enformant.

The Information of Richard Fletcher *of* St. *Vedaſt*, alias *Foſter*, *London*, **Phyſitian**, taken as before.

'WHo ſaith that about Three years ago, he met *Roger* 'L'*Eſtrange* Eſq; at the *Half Moon Tavern* in *Cheapſide*, 'about Licenſing a Book, Entitled, *The Works of Geber* an *Arabian* '*Prince* and *Philoſopher*; and gave Mr. *L'Eſtrange* a *Guinee* for his 'Licenſe. And a Diſcourſe happening about *Religion*; Mr. '*L'Eſtrange* askt, of what *Religion* this Enformant was? who an-'ſwer'd a *Catholick*; *L'Eſtrange* Replyed, Are you a *Roman Catholick*? 'This Enformant Anſwer'd, that was *Non-ſenſe*, *Catholick* being *U-*'*niverſal*, and not to be *Circumſcrib'd*; then *L'Eſtrange* bid this En-'formant Explain himſelf: I anſwer'd *That Faith that wrought the* '*fear of God, and to do righteouſly doth declare thoſe that are of the* Ca-'tholick Church, which I take to be the Church of *England*. Mr. 'L' Eſtrange then declared himſelf to be a *Catholique* of *Rome*, and 'to believe the *Faith* of that *Church*; and told this Enformant, 'that his Definition was too large. This Enformant then ask'd 'the ſaid *L' Eſtrange*, whether the Pope were the Head of that 'Church of which he acknowledg'd himſelf a Member, who an-'ſwered *he was*, and hoped e'er long, many others would return 'to that Church, or to that effect, and further ſaith not.

You have here before you the bloudy Charge of *L' Eſtrange*'s being a *Papiſt*, word for word, as Mr. *Prance*'s *Secretary* has been pleaſed to ſet it forth. My next work muſt be to ſpeak to his *Animadverſions*, or at leaſt, to ſo much of them as carrys either *ſence*, *colour*, or *Grammar* along with it. (for no man is bound *to anſwer that which no Mortal can pretend to underſtand*) When that is done, I ſhall take the liberty my ſelf alſo of *animadverting* (That's the Word) upon *Depoſitions*, *Animadverſions* and *All*; and *I* ſhall ſpeak in the firſt place to the firſt *Affidavit*.

R. L. S.

R. L. S. *to* Prance *his* Affidavit.

MR. *Prance* ſays in his *Animadverſions* upon *Himſelf*, (*fol.*2.) 'That he only maketh Oath of my being at ſuch a place, at 'ſuch times; and he does not believe every one that comes into a '*Popiſh* Chappel, and Kneels, in complaiſance to ſatisfy his Curioſi-'ty at the *Maſs to be a Papiſt*. So that if it had not been for my Dialogue betwixt *Philo-L'Eſtrange* and *Pragmaticus* (which I never ſo much as heard of, till the Fifth of this Month at the *Hague*) He could have found in his heart I perceive to have acquitted me himſelf, as he ſeems to intimate in the ſame Page.

'As to my own Affidavit (*ſays he* fol.7.) which is the firſt here 'produced, I do find Mr. *L'Eſtrange* Triumphing in the 35. page of 'his *Appeal*, that I had ſeen him no more than three or four times 'at Maſs at *Somerſet-houſe*.

Now *L'Eſtrange's words* from whence he infers This, are *Theſe*, Mr. *Prance* ſwore, 'That he had ſeen me Three or Four Times at 'Maſs, at *Somerſet-houſe*, about TWO YEAR SINCE, and doing 'there as other People did; but he could not ſay, *That he ſaw me Receive*. So that Here's only a bare *Narrative* of *Prance's Oath* before the *King and Council* how *often* he had ſeen me at Maſs, turn'd into a *Triumph*, that he had ſeen me no *oftner*. And then he goes on to a Recital of my *Proteſtation*, *That I had never enter'd into any Popiſh Chappel, or been preſent at any Maſs, ſince his Majeſties Reſtauration in* 1660. 'And then (ſays *Prance* ſpeaking of *L'Eſtrange*) 'as if he thought This *Proteſtation* not ſufficient, he makes a Note 'upon the great Abatement of my Reckoning, as being aſſured by 'Report, That I had ſworn in the Company of **Care, Curtis,** 'and *Others*, That I had ſeen him at leaſt, or about a *Hundred Times*. And ſo he goes on thus, 'As for what he was aſſured of by Report 'I value it not; neither is it material to the point, as being of lit-'tle or no Force againſt Him. The Difference is betwixt his *Pro-'teſtation* and my *Oath*, which I have here Confirmed by the Oath 'of another Perſon, (Mr. *Mowbray by Name*) who likewiſe ſwears 'he ſaw him twice in the Year 1677. at a Popiſh Chappel, *that is to* 'ſay, at *Somerſet-Houſe*; to the great diſparagement of that part 'of his *Proteſtation*, *never ſince the Kings Reſtauration*, which was in 'the year 1660 (fol.8.)

As to the *Truth* of my *Protestation*; I stand or fall to Almighty God; and (with the *Animadverters* leave) *That Abatement of the Reckoning*, which he makes so slight of, I take to be a very *Material Point*. *Prance swears in Company a* **hundred** *Times* (as he himself is not able to deny it) and yet he brings down his Account only to *Three* or *Four times*, before the *King* and *Council*. The *former I* am able to *prove*; and that *Prance* told some of the same Company too, that he had enough to hang me. *I* shall speak to *Mowbrays* Oath, when it comes on in course.

Now says *Prance* again, '*(Ibid.)* I would never have taken no-'tice of Mr. *L'Estrange*'s *Solemn Declaration*, had it been upon any 'other account, but This; That either *He* has some particular *Re-'serves* to *Himself*, or I must be *Perjur'd*; and should he now go un-'answer'd (which is a thing he boasts of) the smart Twits which 'he has given the Kings Evidence would pass for Current; and he 'would come to be a quoted Author against us. And therefore I 'do as publickly and as solemnly declare as he has done, **That I 'am as tender of Swearing to the Detriment of my 'Neighbour, as any other Person that aims at the enjoy-'ment of a future Happiness.** For my part, I know not to what 'very great purpose the latter part of his Declaration was made. 'For having solemnly Declar'd himself of the Church of *England*, 'what if he had been seen *Twenty Times* at a *Popish Chappel*? But 'that part of the *Protestation* was particularly *Level'd* at my *Oath*, 'which I am oblig'd to uphold so far as honestly I may.

To This I Answer, That in the presence of *The God of Truth*, and *the Searcher of all hearts*, I have *no Reserve* in This *Protestation*: And that in this Oath against me, *Prance* has done me wrong, and that which he says in denyal of it amounts to little more in effect then This, That **He makes as much Conscience of Forswearing himself as another Body.** Beside, that for ought I know, *This Declaration* may be any *Other Mans Act*, as well as *Prances*; and that's the best can be made on't.

There

There is another difficulty yet behind; which is, that *my proteſtation* was only *Level'd* (as *France* will have it) at the *Blaſting of his Evidence:* for my being at *Maſs*, does not prove me a *Papiſt*; and I was ſafe enough without it. I know very well that every man that goes to Maſs is not preſently a *Papiſt:* Or if I had been a downright *Papiſt* at the time charg'd upon me, to have been at *Maſs*, yet having ſince done all thoſe things that the Law requires, to make me a *Legal Proteſtant*, I had been ſecure enough That way too: but ſtill, though barely my being *there*, was not ſufficient to make a *Papiſt* of me, yet a *malicious interpretation* of my *buſineſs* there, would have left it a meaſuring-caſt, whether it was my *Religion*, or my *Curioſitie* that brought me *thither*. Whereas, if I was not there at all, there is no place left for the improvement of an envious conſtruction.

He takes it ill, (*fol. 9.*) as if my contradicting of him in *my own caſe*, were to invalidate his *Evidence* in Sir *Edmondbury Godfreys*. Does he imagine, that the making of *one True Oath*, ſhall *Authorize*, and *Protect* any man in *another falſe one?* Or that the *hanging* of one *man* that is *guilty*, ſhall entitle him to the deſtroying of *another* that is *innocent?* At this rate there's no man can be ſafe. But if he confeſſes, he's *undone, one way*; and if he *denies*, he's *ruin'd another*. He makes it a diſparagement of the King's Evidence, for a man to defend himſelf: nay, and in my abſence now, hearing that I had a vindication in the Preſs, (which I had not) he goes by his own authority, (for no other did he produce) to examine a Printer about it, and to ſeize it.

His Secretary falls on moſt outrageouſly upon the *19th. pag.* of my *Narrative*, for *diſcrediting the King's Evidence*; with what reaſon, let any man judg. What (ſay I) ſhall any man argue, that the diſparagement *of a* juggle, weakens *a* Truth? *Sir* Edmondbury Godfrey

was

was never the leſs murther'd, *becauſe Mr.* Powel eſcap'd. *Shall any man inferr, That there were no* Black Bills provided, *becauſe there were no Arms found in Sir Ha*ry Titchbourn's *Houſe?* And thus the Deliberation goes on all along in *favour of the Witneſſes.*

I muſt not paſs this Evidence yet, without noting, That his Oath before the Councel was *about two years* ſince; whereas in this Depoſition he makes it about *three.* And one word more yet; how many hundreds are there of the Communion of the Church of *Rome*, that if I ſpeak falſe, are able to detect me; and would undoubtedly ſay one to another what a profligate Wretch is this, to deny his being at *Maſs*, when you and you, and Five hundred of us, have ſeen him there forty and forty Times?

R.L.S. *to Mowbrays Depoſition.*

I Shall proceed now to *Mowbray*'s *Depoſition*, **About** *the Firſt or Second Sunday in June.* 1677. **About** ſuch or ſuch a *Sunday* is a new way of Reckoning; and then he goes on as myſteriouſly; an *Acquaintance* of *one Anderſon*'s, &c. And why not of *John a Nokes* or *John a Stiles* as well? For This *Anderſon* is a meer Nullity, and brought in by *Head* and *Shoulders* without any part or Intereſt in the Story, and without knowing any thing, either *Who* this *Acquaintance* was, or what he *ſaid*, or *did*. But an *Acquaintance* of *Anderſon*'s, it ſeems, *ſaluted a Perſon in the Queens Chappel, immediately after Maſs, and told* Mowbray, *That it was* Mr. L'Eſtrange *that Licenſed Books.* But he neither gives us This *Acquaintances Name*, nor tells us *where*, or *how* to *find* him. And certainly I am the Firſt Man that was ever arraign'd upon the Enformation of a *Quidam*: One that no body knows where

where to meet with. And then Obſerve, that this ſame *Nameleſs, Unknown Acquaintance* ſaid to *Mowbray*, *That 'twas L' Eſtrange*; ſo that it ſeems, he had not known me elſe: And upon That *bare Information* from *no body knows whom*, he *poſitively Swears* to the *Knowledge* of the *Man*. And after That; *He* ſees the ſame man again, and ſwears him again to be *L' Eſtrange*, becauſe the Man in the Moon told him ſo. And it is yet further remarkable, that tho' *Oates, Prance* and *Mowbray* were together in the *Lobby*, when I was charg'd before the King and Councel, and *Mowbray* continu'd There, while *Prance* gave his Evidence, there was no uſe made of him at all to ſecond *Prances Teſtimony* againſt me.

R. L. *S. to the Depoſition of* Jane Curtis.

AS to the *Depoſition* of *Jane Curtis*; This is the Short of the matter. I charg'd her and her *Husband*, for Publiſhing Seditious Books, and promiſed to bring her off, if ſhe would diſcover whence ſhe had them: and threatned to proſecute her, if ſhe would not. She denyed all at firſt; but being pinch'd upon Circumſtances, ſhe confeſſed, (particularly, **The Appeal from the Country to the City**) and promiſed to do her beſt to find out whence they came. She *denyes* here, upon her *Oath, the being Concern'd in any ſuch thing*, tho' the whole Town knows the contrary; and that there is not one Libel of Five hundred that paſſes not through *H.'s* and *her Husbands* Fingers.

The buſineſs about *Oates and his Gang* is moſt ridiculouſly falſe. Is it not a likely thing that I ſhould ſay to her, *you know what ſome of them are come to already*, at a time when they were in full proſperity. And that when my buſineſs was to *win* her into a *diſcovery*, I ſhould

lay my ſelf at her *mercy*, by ſaying, that I hop'd to ſee *Oates* and all his Gang hang'd.

As to my refuſal of Licenſing ſome Books againſt the *Papiſts*, which were Licenſed without ſcruple by the Biſhops Chaplains; my anſwer is, that *for* or *againſt* the *Papiſts*, was all one to me, in a caſe where I had no authority to Licenſe either the *one* or the *other*; for my *deputation* was qualifi'd with an *exception* to matters of *Theological Argument*.

But I am informed that *Curtis* her ſelf diſowns ſeveral parts of her *Depoſition*, and ſays, they are falſe printed, and impos'd upon her; and ſo does *Bennet* do the like, as to ſeveral particulars of his Information; which not being material, I ſhall not inſiſt upon them any farther, than to take them for errours of the Preſs; though there are ſome paſſages in *Bennets* that look liker *induſtry* than *miſtake*; as I ſhall obſerve in his *Depoſition*, which comes on next. But firſt. to Mr. *Prances* Deſcant thereupon.

R. L. S. *to the Depoſition of* Jo. Bennet.

THe next (*ſays* Prance, fol. 14.) *is the Information of* Joſeph Bennet, *That Mr.* L' Eſtrange importun'd *him to Bail Captain* Ely *at the Councel-Board. What harm in all this? none at all that I know of. 'Twas the part of a Gentleman, and a friend, to take care of his friend, in adverſity. But we are ſtill to conſider the* circumſtances; *Captain* Ely *it ſeems was in the ſame accuſation with himſelf; but this argues, that* L' Eſtrange *knew the* perſon *well, and was acqnainted with his* Crime. *However, you'l ſay Mr.* L' Eſtrange *was happily accquitted, and I am exceedingly glad of it. Nevertheleſs, I ſay again Mr.* L' Eſtrange *did know the* perſon, *and was acqainted with his* offence;

and

and perhaps he judged it ſlight and trivial, or elſe he did ill to engage his friend. But this Captain Ely *was a* Conſpirator with himſelf; deeply engag'd; *a* perſon *that he* knew *to be concerned with him; a* perſon *that had paid* Tongue *ſeveral ſums of money toward the carrying on of the Deſign; and therefore it became him as a Gentleman to become Bail for his* **Fellow Conjurator.**

Here is, *firſt*, the *Depoſition falſifi'd*, which does not ſay *importun'd*, but *requeſted*: and that *Requeſt* was no more neither, than *pray* Mr. *Bennet will you be bound for Captain Ely's Appearance.*

Secondly, take notice, that the Captain appear'd at his day, and no Body came in againſt him.

Thirdly, He ſays that Captain *Ely* and *L'Eſtrange* were in the ſame *accuſation*, which is *falſe*; nor was I ever in company with him and *Tongue* together in my life.

Fourthly, that I was *acquainted* with the *Captain's Crime*; which I neither was, nor with his Perſon neither in ſuch manner as *Prance* would have it underſtood.

Fifthly, he makes *Ely* and *L'Eſtrange* to be *Conſpirators*; and calls the *Captain* my *Fellow-Conjurator*. So that after an ample Diſcharge from his Majeſty, and every Member of the Right Honourable Privy Council, without any *Hſitation*; and upon *two full Hearings* of my *Charge* and *Defence*, I am now Cited as a *Conſpirator*, to appear at the *Tribunal* of a *Grub-Street Libel*. Nay, my *Innocency* was ſo *clear*, that Mr. *Oates*, and *young Tongue himſelf* let the Cauſe fall upon the place: Only this bold Undertaker, that cannot pretend to know one word of the matter in queſtion, ſets up here for my *Accuſer*. And I do not wonder at it, when I can prove that he has charg'd the *Privy Council* with *Partiality*, in

my *Proceeding*. But I ſhall give you here a ſhort Abſtract of the whole Caſe.

After a thouſand *Menaces* and *Reproches*, and ſuch a *Character* of me as ſome of the *Fanatical Coffee-Houſes* are accuſtomed to beſtow upon the *Government*, and the *Governments Friends*: I was inform'd that mention was made of my *Name*, as a *Confederate* with *Young Tonge*, and the matter exhibited to the Privy-Council; whereupon I did not only wait my Time of *Summons*, but made what intereſt I could to be brought to a ſpeedy *Examination*, without endeavouring to prepoſſeſs any one Member of that Honourable Board in my favour. My *Charge* was, the Joyning with *young Tongue* to turn the *Plot* upon Mr. *Oates*, and to invalidate his *Teſtimony*; But Mr. *Oates* was quickly pleas'd to let fall the Subject-matter of his firſt Charge, and ſo fell upon me as a *Juſtice of Peace, for refuſing to receive Tonge's Information, unleſs ready drawn under his own hand; and a Clauſe in it for my own ſecurity, declaring it to be his own voluntary Act, without any inducement from me toward the doing of it: And with this further Reſerve, that if I ſhould not like the matter of it upon peruſal, (for I had not as yet either ſeen or heard it) I would not meddle with it at all.* So that my *Crime* was, at *firſt*, my *being* in a *Conſpiracy*; and I came now to be charg'd becauſe I would *not* be in one. And pray'e obſerve, that after Mr. *Oates* had challeng'd me for *refuſing* to *meddle* with, or ſo much as to *hear*, or *ſee Tonge's Information*, but upon the Terms aforeſaid: he advanced another *Accuſation* againſt me, for *Miſpriſion* of *Treaſon*; and makes me now a *Criminal* for *concealing* that which *but juſt before* he had made a *Crime* in me to *refuſe* to *know*. So that I am Arraign'd

firſt,

Firſt, becauſe I *would* not *know*; and then, for *concealing* that which I *did* not *know*.

Having paſs'd this *Teſt*, and being with much credit diſmis'd, I had moſt certainly gone into the Country preſently upon it, if the Rumour of a *Review* of the whole matter before His Majeſty in Counſel, at his return from *New-Market*, had not put a ſtop to my Journey: and ſo it fell out; for this being *Wedneſday*, *Octob.* 6. upon the *Wedneſday* following (*Oct.* 13.) I attended again, and the buſineſs of *Tongue* was blown over again, as before, without any contradiction. Mr. *Oates* after this, offer'd to the Board that I was *Popiſhly affected*, and he would *prove* me ſo; and upon his Motion, *Prance* was call'd and Sworn, who *depoſed* as is aforeſaid; but he could not ſay he ſaw me **Receive**, nor name any body that ſaw me there, beſide himſelf, only he *ſwore poſitively* that **I was the Man, for he had known me ſeveral Years about the Town.**

This Evidence falling ſhort of doing what was *expected* from it, **Stevens** the *Meſſenger* was called to *prove* that I had conveyed away *Bulls* and *Popiſh Books*, after they were *ſeiz'd*. **Stevens** being *Sworn*, told a Story of *Popiſh Books* that had been *ſeiz'd*, and that a *Conſtable* over againſt *L' Eſtrange* clapt a *Padlock* upon the Door, and that coming afterward for the *Books*, the *Padlock* was taken off, and the *Books* gone; but as to my being *privy*, either to the *taking* of the *Books*, or to the *conveying of them away*, he could not ſay *one ſyllable*. And thus I had the **Honour** to receive a ſecond **Diſcharge** without any **Reflexion** either upon my **Loyalty** or **Religion**.

Give me leave now to enform the *Reader*, that ſo ſoon as ever I heard my name was made uſe of in the buſi-

neſs

neſs of *Tongue*, and before any thing ſtuck upon Captain *Ely* before the *Council*; finding by the Storys in the *Coffee-Houſes* what *Byaſs* my *Back-friends* intended to take and which way the contrivance was likely to work; I deſir'd Captain *Ely* and Mr. *Choqueux* to be ſo juſt to me as to make Oath upon the matter of *fact*, before ſome Maſter of *Chancery*, to the truth of ſome particulars, wherein I might poſſibly come to be concern'd, to forearm my ſelf, in caſe of any indirect Contrivances againſt me; which they did accordingly, the *One* before Sir *Adam Ottley*, the *Other* before Sir *John Coel*, and the *Affidavits* are word for word, as hereunder follows.

The Affidavit *of* Samuel Ely, *&c.*

'*Samuel Ely* of the Pariſh of *St. Martins* in the '*Fields*, in the County of *Middleſex*, Gent. ma-'keth Oath, that he This Deponent hath not 'known the Perſon of *Roger L'Eſtrange* in the 'County of *Middleſex*, Eſq; till about a fortnight 'before the Date hereof: And that He this De-'ponent never ſaw the ſaid *L'Eſtrange* and Mr. *Simp-ſon Tongue* together; nor ever heard of any Cor-'reſpondence between them, more then that Mr. '*Choqueux* told this Deponent that he had brought 'the ſaid *Tongue* to Mr. *L'Eſtrange* to deſire him to 'take *Tongue*'s Enformation upon Oath, as a thing 'that might much juſtifie Us; This being before 'we heard of any Order to attend the Coun-cel.

'This

'This Deponent further Enformeth, that the 'ſaid *Tongue* made mention of Mr. L'E*ſtrange* in a 'certain Paper about the latter end of *July* laſt, '(to this Deponents beſt Remembrance) as a per-'ſon that might be a very good Evidence againſt 'his Father, for ſome ſeditious Paſſages in a *Book* 'of Dr. *Tongues*, call'd, *The Royal Martyr;* which 'the ſaid Mr. L'E*ſtrange* refuſed to *Licenſe*, and D. '*Tongue* took it very ill at his hands: *Tongue* the 'younger declaring, that he had a great mind to 'be acquainted with the ſaid Mr. L'E*ſtrange*.

'This Deponent moreover ſaith, That being 'at *Windſor* about the middle of *Auguſt* laſt, He 'this Deponent was told, That young *Tongue* had 'denyed the Enformation given in by him to his 'Majeſty, and declared, that he was ſet on by the 'Papiſts; whereupon this Deponent went imme-'diately to young *Tongue*, being then in *Windſor*, 'and told him what he had heard: Who there in 'the preſence of Two other perſons, did preſent-'ly take Pen, Ink, and Paper, and drew up a ſhort 'Declaration to this following Effect.

'Being informed that my Uncle, Captain *Tongue* 'hath malicioufly aſpers'd me, that I have made a 'Recantation, and diſown'd my former Enfor-'mation given in to his Majeſty; *As I hope to be ſa-'ved*, I never did make any ſuch Recantation, 'though I was mightily urg'd thereunto by my 'Uncle,

'Uncle, and to lay it upon the Papiſts. But the 'Enformation was all true, and in the Diſcharge 'of my Duty and Conſcience; and that it was 'my own ſpontaneous Act, without the Expecta- 'tion of any Advantage, Benefit, or Reward; or 'by the Procurement, Direction or Abetting of 'any Perſon whatſoever.

'This Declaration being by him the ſaid *Symp- 'ſon Tonge* written in the preſence of two other 'Perſons, and this Deponent, of his own proper 'motion, and without any advice thereunto; and 'it was likewiſe Atteſted by this Deponent and the 'two Perſons above-mentioned. And all 'this was done in the ſpace of one half hour, (as 'this Deponent verily believes) from the time af- 'ter this Deponent's firſt hearing the Report.

'And finally, This Deponent ſaith further, that 'he heard Mr. L'*Eſtrange* (being in diſcourſe with 'Mr. *Choqueux*) caution the ſaid Mr. *Choqueux* to 'have a care what he ſaid to that Fellow (mean- 'ing young *Tongue*) for he would lay hold of any 'thing to ruine you. This was the effect of Mr. 'L'*Eſtrange*'s Caveat to Mr. *Choqueux*, who returned 'this Anſwer, *That he had nothing to do with him in 'the World, but in relation to his Cure*; and this Depo- 'nent heard Mr. L'E*ſtrange* ſay further at the ſame 'time, *Remember Mr.* Choqueux, *what I told young 'Tongue and You together, I* do declare, I will not

'Receive

'*Receive* any Enformation from *Tonge*', but under 'his own hand; and I will have a Clauſe in it too, 'wherein he ſhall acquit me upon the ſame Oath, 'of having any thing to do with him by way of '*Advice* or *Encouragement*; That I did not directly 'or indirectly move him to it, but that it was all 'at his own Motion, and at his own Requeſt: And 'more this Deponent hath not to ſay,

Jurat coram me. 4 die *Octobris* Anno xxxii. *Car. II. R.* An. Dom. 1680.

JO: COELL. SAM. ELY

Anthony Choqueux *of the* Savoy, *Chyrurgeon, this* 4*th. day of* Octob. 1680. *maketh Oath, as follows,* viz. Impr.

I. THat about the Beginning of *Septemb.* laſt, 'Mr. *Tho. Newcomb* brought Mr *L'Eſtrange* 'to his Houſe to enquire about ſome Memorials 'of Prince *Rupert's* Actions in the late War, and in '*Flanders*: but becauſe it was ſomewhat late, they 'drank a Bottle of Wine, and put off farther diſ-'courſe upon that Buſineſs to another Meeting.

'II. That ſome few days after, this, Mr. '*L'Eſtrange* came to his Houſe a ſecond time; and

'after some discourse with him the Deponent, be-
'fore Mr. *Tonge*, (whom he had the under cure)
'about the Memorials, and Papers concerning the
'Prince, he told him that the Person there present
'was young Mr. *Tonge*; whereupon Mr. L'E*strange*
'took notice of him, and ask'd him if he had ever
'seen him at his Father's Chamber, who answered
'no, he had never seen him before; or words to
'the same effect.

'III. That at the same time, Mr. *Tonge* said
'he remembred that he had been told, Mr. L'E-
'*strange* refused to License a Book of his Fathers,
'(called the *Royal Martyr*) which Refusal, Dr.
Tonge took very ill, he said. And so he went on
'in several Discourses of divers Meetings betwixt
'his Father and Dr. *Oates*, and how many Clerks
'his Father kept constantly a writing; and such
'kind of Talk; Mr. L'E*strange* only giving him
'the Hearing, without any encouragement, or
'asking him any questions, but slightly telling
'him that all this signifi'd nothing; or to that
'purpose.

'IV. That finding Mr. L'E*strange* to wave
'the Discourse, he whisper'd the Deponent in the
'Ear, to desire him to accquaint Mr. LE*strange*,
'that if he had any thing to Transcribe, he was
'ready to do it for him; and should take it for a
'great kindness. After this; that there pass'd no-

'thing

'thing but common Talk: Only, at parting, 'that Mr. *Tonge* deſired of Mr. L'E*ſtrange* that he 'might wait upon him at his Houſe, ſetting the 'day and hour himſelf, to which *Mr.* L'E*ſtrange* 'ſeemed to agree.

'V. That at the time appointed, *Tonge* went, '(as he afterward told this Deponent) but *Mr.* 'L'E*ſtrange* was not at home; ſo that he ſent him 'a Letter next morning, deſiring him to appoint 'ſome other time; which Letter this Depo-'nent ſaw, and likewiſe *Mr.* L'E*ſtrange's* Anſwer 'to it, which he conveyed to *Mr. Tonge*. Before 'the writing of the ſaid Letter, *Mr.* L'E*ſtrange* 'ſaid (by way of caution) unto this Deponent, *a 'man had need have a care what he ſays to ſuch Fellows, 'for they'l lay hold of any thing.* Or to the ſame 'purpoſe. That the ſubſtance of the Anſwer (to 'the Deponent's beſt memory) was this; That 'if *Mr. Tonge* had any thing to ſay to him, he 'ſhould be within at ſeven in the Evening.

'VI. That at ſeven in the Evening, (or there a-'bouts) upon the earneſt deſire of *Mr. Tonge*, 'This Deponent went into *Holbourn* with him to '*Mr.* L'E*ſtrange's*; and told him how great a 'deſire *Mr. Tonge* had expreſs'd to be better ac-'quainted with him; and how ready he was to 'ſerve him, in Tranſcribing any thing for him: 'to whom Mr L'E*ſtrange* anſwer'd, that he ſhould

'beglad (upon occasion) to do him a kindness.

'VII. That hereupon, this Deponent told Mr. 'L'E*strange* (upon Mr. *Tonge*'s desiring it) that 'Mr. *Tonge* offer'd to inform him of what he had 'deliver'd to the King; and that Mr. L'E*strange* 'repli'd, If he has any thing material to present 'to me, as a Justice of Peace, for the King's Ser-'vice, I'le give him his Oath and receive it, up-'on condition that he declare it to be his own Act, 'without any motive to it from my self; other-'wise I will not meddle in it; or words to the 'same import: And that Mr. *Tonge* said this was 'reasonable, but that he had not such an Infor-'mation ready drawn: That so this Deponent 'went away to a place hard by, and about a quar-'ter of an hour after, returning that way, saw 'Mr. *Tonge* come out of Mr. L'E*strange*'s House 'with two or three little printed Books in his hand, 'which he said Mr L'E*strange* had given him.

'VIII. And Lastly, That after this the De-'ponent heard *Tonge* speak no more of Mr. 'L'E*strange*, or of any Papers given unto him.

A. Choqueux.

Jur' 4. die *Octob.* 1680.
coram me Magist.
Cancel'

Adam Ottley.

The

The *plain* and *naked* account that I have here render'd to this *Depoſition*, might *abundantly ſuffice to my purpoſe*, if a paſſage in the cloſe of *Prance*'s *Animadverſion* had not oblig'd me to ſome further *Remarques* upon it. *The World* (ſays *Prance*) *is to conſider upon what account this* Affidavit *is produc'd*. Now take notice, that though (as I am inform'd) all the five *Depoſitions* were equally exhibited to *the Committee of Lords for Examination of matters relating to the late horrid Plot*; yet this is the *only evidence* of the *five* that appears in the front of it, to be ſo exhibited. So that *Prance*'s *innuendo* is as much as to ſay, that this *Affidavit* is produced to bring *L'Eſtrange* into the Plot about the buſineſs of *Tonge*; which is a thing that he himſelf has hinted upon ſeveral occaſions, very much to my admiration, being ſo abſolute a ſtranger to the matter.

But if this be the buſineſs, here is to be conſidered the credit of young *Tonge's* Evidence, as to my particular. He was ſworn backward and forward, as has manifeſtly appear'd to his Majeſty and Council. Firſt, he preſſes with great importunity, to have certain Papers of Information preſented to the King: (though nothing in them conſiderable) he is afterward charg'd with denying that Information; and thereupon, of his own motion, he takes Pen and Ink immediately, and under his hand, and upon his Salvation, denies that ever he diſclaim'd that Information; declaring that his Uncle Captain *Tonge* would have had him do it, and lay it upon the Papiſts. This Paper he ſigns of his own accord, and deſires three Gentlemen, then preſent, to Atteſt it; and ſo delivers it with Solemnity, as a juſtification of his Innocence. And yet Captain *Tonge* acquits himſelf afterward of that imputation, and produces his

Ne-

Nephew's Denial of that *Information*, under his own *hand*.

It concerns me to ſift this Cauſe very narrowly; for a man may ſee with half an Eye, that there was a deſign to have Trepann'd me, in the bottom of it. Why ſhould young *Tonge* keep ſuch a ſtir alſo to be acquainted with *L'Eſtrange*, and put my Name in as a Perſon to be engaged in an Evidence againſt his Father? One that he had never ſeen in his Life, nor never had any thing to do with. And ſee how he purſues it too.

For after the Caſualtie of my meeting him at Mr. *Choqueux*'s, about the beginning of *September* laſt: (which by his own Confeſſion, was the firſt time that ever he ſaw the Face of me) how did he ply me with ſenſeleſs Stories of *His Father*, and Dr. *Dates*, till I put him off with telling him how impertinent they were? And then nothing would ſerve, but he muſt give me a Viſit. He ſets the time, and came at his hour: but I ſlipt out of the way on purpoſe to avoid him: And I gave as little heed to him the next day, when he came: cautioning Mr. *Choqueux* over and over to have a care of him, as a dangerous Fellow. Obſerve, that *Young Tonge*'s Swearing and Counter-ſwearing was all over, before ever I ſaw the Eyes of him: and that the *Firſt* time that ever I ſaw Captain *Ely* in my Life was about a fortnight after. And yet Mr. *Prance*'s Secretary will have *Us* to be old Acquaintance and *Fellow Conjurators*. This is the Truth on't, and this is certainly a New way of managing a Conſpiracy.

R. *L. S. to* Mr. Fletchers *Depoſition*.

AS to the *Affidavit* of M. *Fletcher*; he invited me to the *Half-Moon-Tavern* in *Cheap-ſide*; where I found

found him, and two other perſons with him, whoſe names I have forgot. They preſs'd a Guiny upon me for the Licencing of a Book; and after ſeveral refuſals, I took it. But as to my Aſſerting the *Pope* to be the *Head* of the *Church*; *my ſelf a Member* of *that Church*; or ſpeaking of my *hope* to ſee *others* return to that *Church*, or any thing to that effect, by the Everliving God, it is as falſe as if he had ſworn I had come down the Chimney upon a Broom-ſtick. So that here's my Oath now againſt his; and without any other Inducement to it, than common honeſty, and Juſtice: for I am ſafe, if it had been true, and I would his Majeſtie's Leige-People were in no more danger of his Phyſick, than I am in of his *Oath*.

But now to the *probability* of the matter: *firſt*, I had no diſcourſe with *Fletcher*, but in the hearing of the other two; and to thoſe two I dare *Appeal*, if he dares but ſay who they were. Nay, I will not deſpair but that theſe Papers my fall into their hands, and that they themſelves will be ſo juſt as to acquit me. *Secondly*, I muſt be two great Fools in one, to ſpeak a thing ſo imprudent, and ſo remote from the buſineſs, together; for it had no relation either to the *company*, or to the *occaſion*. *Thirdly*, In caſe I had ſaid it in ſo harmleſs a faſhion, it was againſt the Laws of Society and Hoſpitality, for Mr. *Fletcher*, under thoſe circumſtances, to betray his Gueſt. But *Laſtly*, It is my comfort that Mr. *Fletcher*, of all the world, is the Man to make me a *Papiſt*; of whom no man living could ever yet make *any thing*. So that Mr. *Prance* runs a much greater *Riſque* in undertaking for Mr. *Fletcher*, then I did in ſpeaking to *Bennet* to be bound for Captain *Ely*.

Mr.

Mr. *Prance*'s *Invention* (I find) is quite *Faded*, & ſo hard put ſto't to make a *Twelve penny-Book on't*, that he's fain to blunder out a matter of twelve *Folio* Pages in *Obſervations* upon *Philo L' Eſtrange*, and *Pragmaticus*; and all the edge of his indignation is ſtill turn'd upon me, that Heaven knows am as innocent of the thing as I was born. There is only one terrible pinch againſt me. Mr. *L' Eſtrange*, ſays, (he, fol. 18.) *in his* Diſcovery *upon* Diſcovery (Pag. 13.) *Now Dr.* (ſays he) *I do poſitively averr that there was not one* Church of *England*-Man *in the Parliament-Army*, (as they called it;) when it is yet freſh in Memory, that a *Metropolitan* of *England* ſerv'd in the Parliament-Army (as they call'd it) with a Command of Horſe. *And then* (ſays he *pag.* 32.) *what becomes of* L. E' ſtrange's *poſitive averr?* I muſt anſwer Mr. *Prance*, *that the* Covenant *was an* Abjuration *of the* Church *of* England; *and that the* oppoſing *of* Biſhops *and* Common-Prayer *was the* Teſt *of the* Party. I could give him forty Inſtances of *Epiſcopal Men* that *Apoſtatiz'd* into the *Schiſm*, but when they were once *dipt*, they were no more *Church-of-England-men* after it, than a *Renegade* that has *renounc'd* his *Faith* is a *Chriſtian*.

I ſhall now ſubjoyn to what I have already ſaid in the matter of *Religion*, the Copy of a Letter which I delivered to Dr. *Thomas Ken*, *Almoner* to her Highneſs the Princeſs of *Orange* at the *Hague*, *Feb.* 1. (*New Stile*) 1680. where I received the Holy Communion the next day accordingly. which I take to be the moſt Sacred Security that one Chriſtian can give to another.

To

To the Reverend Dr. Thomas Ken.

Feb. 1. *New Stile* 1681.

SIR,

IN or *about* Octob. *laſt*, Mr. Oates *repreſented me to the* King *and* Council *for a* Papiſt; Prance *Swore that he ſaw me ſeveral times at* Maſs, *at* Somerſet-Houſe, *about two Years before; but Swore withal, that he never ſaw me receive the* Sacrament; *I was* Summoned, Heard *and* Acquitted.

Since that time, ſome People (as I am enformed) *have Sworn that they have ſeen me* Receive *too; wherein I think my ſelf bound in Conſcience and common Prudence to clear my ſelf.*

Sir, *By the Grace of God I purpoſe to receive the Bleſſed* Sacrament *from your hand to Morrow: May it be Life or Death to me,* as I ſpeak true or falſe; *May it be to me what the* Sop *was to* Judas, *if either I am, or ever was, or ever pretended to be of the* Communion *of the Church of* Rome.

I never received the Sacrament *from a* Romiſh *Prieſt in my Life; I never was under the Roof of a* Popiſh Chappel *in* England, *ſince the King was Reſtor'd in* 1660. *I have no* Reſerve, *but intend by this Letter, as I deſire you may underſtand it.*

SIR, *I am, with infinite Reverence for your Function, and Eſteem for your Friendſhip and Perſon*

Your Moſt Affectionate

Humble Servant,

Roger L'Eſtrange.

I received the *Sacrament* accordingly, as Sir *Gabriel Sylvius*, Mr. *Blagrave* (Chaplain to the Princeſs) Mr. *Plot*, *&c*, can teſtify.

Having ſaid as much to *Prance*'s Drowzy, Inſipid *Libel*, as I think needful, or convenient: I ſhall now make the *Reader* a Preſent of a Parcel of *Diſſenting-Proteſtants-Morals*; ſuch as I defie the *Chriſtian World* to ſhew the fellow of them. But however they are accomodated to the Work in hand, (like *Lipps* like *Lattice*) and ſent abroad in *Dutch* and *French*, for the Honour of the Nation and of the Government. There have been of late a matter of *fourteen prices*, (beſide *Interlopers*) publiſhed againſt me to my double Honour; firſt, as the Author of ſome ingenious and ſeaſonable Papers, which I had no hand in at all; and *Secondly*, as I am rank'd with the Late King, His Preſent Majeſty and Privy Council, the Biſhops and diverſe of the Loyal Nobility, with now & then a *Tantivy-man* or a *Tory*. But theſe laſt are not worth the ſpeaking of. The Authors, betwixt *Debt* and *Miſdemeanors*, have brought a ſcandal upon moſt of the *Goals* about the Town; and ſo ſoon as ever they be *ſpew'd* out again, they fall to their old Trade of *Railing* and *Spunging*. They are kept at *Livery*, and let out themſelves like *Hackneys*: You may have them for *York*, for *Canterbury*, for *Rome*, or for *Geneva*, at ſo much a Stage: for it is not the *Cauſe* but the *Cruſt* that they conſider. There are not above half a Dozen of them of any Note, and thoſe Fellows are really *Mercenary* and *Lowſy*, to this degree, They have not a grain of *Senſe* or *Honesty*, and hardly a *penny* of Money in the whole Tribe of them: and yet they may do well enough for *Reformers* (as thats the trade they drive at) they talk of Religion, bawl

at

at *Biſhops*, *bear falſe witneſs againſt their Neighbours*; ſet the people agogge with Alarums of *Popery*, and in the mean time pick their Pockets. They lay ſorely hard at the Clergy, 'tis true; but they make account they have ſome Title to that Liberty; for they have heard of an *Aſſe* in the Bible, that rebuk'd a *Prophet*; and they fancy that the whole Family has a Right to the ſame Privilege.

But now, in ſhort, to the *Morals* I promis'd you: And, firſt, obſerve how theſe pretending Zealots for the ſafety of the Kingdom, and the preſervation of the Government, deal with the very Memory of the Bleſſed Martyr; His preſent Majeſty; and the Eſtabliſh'd Conſtitution both of Church and State. I'le begin with a Paper of freſh Date, Publiſh'd by Mr. *Prance's fair Dealers*, *Langley Curtis*, and *Jane* his *Wife*.

'*Quere* (ſays he) whether thoſe Popiſh, Arbi-'trary, Deſigning Knaves, who talk ſo loud of for-'ty one, and forty eight ought not to begin their 'Recokning ſomewhat about Thirty, in the long '*Intervals* of *Parliaments*; and tell us the whole 'Story fairly on both ſides, (*viz.*) *Monopolizing* '*Ship-Money*, Hectoring our Birth-rights, Par-'liaments) Book of Liberties, *Scotch* Voy-'age, *Star-Chamber*, *Biſhops-Courts*, *Corrupt Jud-'ges*, *Maſſacre* in *Ireland*; (in which were Hel-

'liſhly Murther'd above two Hundred Thou-
'ſand Proteſtant-Souls) yet *Papiſts no Rebels*,
'remember that) ſeizing the Neceſſaries (near
'*Cheſter*) ſent by the Worthy Citizens of *Lon-*
'*don*, to Cloath and Relieve thoſe poor Lan-
'guiſhing Proteſtants, who had eſcap'd the
'Savage Papiſts, and lay naked under the
'Walls of *Dublin*; Commiſſions of Array ſetting
'up the Standard, Declaring War; Now *To-*
'*ry* ſay with all your impudence who began firſt.

This Diabolical *Libel*, is only a Venemous *Extract* out of the *Remonſtrance* of the *State* of the *Kingdom*, of *Decemb.* 5. 1642, and the *Declaration* of the *Commons*, of *Feb.* 11. 47. wherein not only the *Rebellion* is juſtified, but the *King's* *Murther*; But there needs no other *Anſwer* to This Execrable Scandal, then to refer the *Reader* to the *King's* *Anſwer* to that *Remonſtrance*, and the ſeveral *Replies* upon the other *Declaration*. Methinks the *Proteſtant-Diſſenters* (as they call themſelves) ſhould employ the Edge of their Malice upon the *Publiſhers* and *Printers* of theſe abominable *Defamations*; and the *Libel* runs on in the ſame Stile too, againſt His *Majeſty that now is*, His *Councel*, *Court*, *Biſhops*, and the *whole Conſtitution* of the

Go-

Government; and yet it is a greater scandal, in the Eye of that *Faction*, for an *honest man* to take *notice* of these Outrages, than for a *Seditious Mutiniere* to *commit* them. His *Insolencies* against our *present Sovereign* are too foul, and slanderous, to be repeated; and yet, among all the *Dissenting Zealots* for his Majestie's *safety* and *honour*; there is not a man takes notice of it. Neither do they deal any better with the *Constitution* of the *Government*.

The putting of the *Laws* in Execution, is called a *Zeal* to serve the *Devil*, or his *Emissaries*, the *Papists*. A *Vote* of the *House* of *Commons* is call'd *the Passing of an Act*; in *Smiths Protestant Intelligence*, *Numb.* 7. *Two* and *Twenty Bishops* of the *Six* and *Twenty*, are made *Papists*; and that's fair: but if you'le have it in short, take it as it lyes; *Whoreing Courtiers*, *Popish Councels*, and *Cheating Rogues*, *Hellish Plottings*, *rotten Peers*, *French Pensioners* and Curst *English* Ones too: *Shamm-Plottings*, *Countermineres*, *suborn'd Villeins*, *false Buggerers*, *Popish Officers*, *French Agreements*, *Buying Voyces*, *False Returns*, *Church-Papists*, *Divino-Bishops*, *Tantivy-Abhorrers*, *Towzers Barking*, *Papists* scribbling to save their *Bacon*, and so forth to the end of the *Chapter*.

After

After these Complements upon my *Betters*, I cannot but own the Vanity of boasting some of their *Good Graces* towards me too. The *Spawn of the Devil* (says honest *Pugg*) *begot of the Whore of* Babylon; L'*Estrange no* Papist, *nor* Jesuite (says *Dialogue upon Dialogue*) *but my* Dog Towzer; and then again *Towzer* is no *Christian*: But then there's a *Distich* that has no Fellow,

When Popes *in* England *shall* Successors *shite*,
Sir Crack-Fart Towzer *will be made a* Knight.

And then *College* (the *Joyner*) upon his Whelp *Towzer* has this Conceit *a Strange Old Yorkish Tike*; another makes a *Bawling Ban*-Dog of me: But *Curtis* and *Janeway* come to the point, and call me a *Foresworn* Villan and a *downright* Papist: Mr. *Benjamin Harris* calls me a *paultry*, *skulking*, *forging Knave*, a *shabby*, *contemptible Author*, and will have it that *Towzer* is come again out of his *Hiding Kennel* in *Masquerade*; and all *This* for writing a Paper, that I have not seen to This day.

But *Harris* is too severe upon me; *That approved* Papist R.L. (says he) One will have it that I wrote a *Comedy* upon my *Mother*: that I had a *Hundred Guinees* every *New-years-day* for writing for the Papists: That I put out *another* mans *Translation* of *Que-*

vedo

vedo in my *own Name*, which *Harry Herring-man* knows to be a damn'd Lye; *Nolls Fidler*, *The Son of a Witch*; and a great deal more ſuch *Traſh*; that is to ſay, whatſoever, *malice*, and *invention* can furniſh, out it comes.

Juſt as I was winding up; my old Friend *Frank Smith* (the *Baptiſt*) Salutes me with a *Speech* of a Noble *Lord*, againſt *Roger* L'E*ſtrange* in the Houſe of *Peers* (which I do believe is impos'd upon that *Noble Lord* (whoever he is) where I have the *Honour* to be call'd *Rogue*, *Villein* and a dangerous, rank *Papiſt*, which do not look like *Parliamentary* words.

I had almoſt forgot my Acknowledgments to the *Goat* upon *Ludgate-Hill* for putting me in ſo good Company in his laſt *Proteſtant Mercury*, in ſaying that *Roger* L'E*ſtrange* did certainly return in the ſame *Pacquet-Boat* with Coll. *Fitz-Patrick*, which is notoriouſly falſe. I ſhall trouble my ſelf no further with *Theſe* Fellows at preſent; but very ſuddainly tell them the reſt of my Mind, by my *Attourney*..

The End.